

## **AMENDMENT**

### **Amendments to the Claims**

Please replace all prior versions and listings of claims with the following Listing of Claims.

#### ***LISTING OF CLAIMS:***

1. (***Original***) A system for managing a plurality of participants to a event comprising:
  - a director having an address associated therewith for delivering the event to the plurality of participants;
  - a plurality of participant managers installed within a network communication system and logically connected amongst themselves and to said director thereby forming a hierarchy; and
  - a turnstile installed at and associated with each of the plurality of participants, each turnstile logically connected to one of said plurality of participant managers in said hierarchy,
  - wherein said turnstile identifies one or more network elements in a communication path between said turnstile and said director, and
  - wherein said director logically connects said turnstile with a particular one of said plurality of participant managers based on said one or more network elements between said turnstile and said director.
2. (***Original***) The system of claim 1, wherein said turnstile sends delivery statistics regarding said associated participant to said connected participant manager; and
  - wherein said plurality of participant managers propagates said delivery statistics upstream through said hierarchy to said director.
3. (***Original***) The system of claim 2, wherein said plurality of participant managers

aggregates said delivery statistics from those of said plurality of participants beneath it in said hierarchy.

4. **(Original)** The system of claim 1, wherein said associated participant presents said turnstile with a ticket to the event to gain access to the event.

5. **(Original)** The system of claim 4, wherein said turnstile determines whether said ticket is valid.

6. **(Original)** The system of claim 5, wherein said turnstile forwards a valid ticket to said connected participant manager for authentication.

7. **(Original)** The system of claim 6, wherein said connected participant manager communicates authorization to said turnstile upon determining said ticket is authentic.

8. **(Original)** The system of claim 1, wherein said director provides event information to said connected participant manager.

9. **(Original)** The system of claim 1, wherein said turnstile prevents said associated participant from receiving the event until a ticket associated with the event is authenticated.

10. **(Original)** The system of claim 1, wherein said turnstile prevents said associated participant from receiving the event until a ticket associated with the event is determined to have been provided to said associated participant.

11. **(Original)** A method for organizing a plurality of participants and a plurality of participant managers in a hierarchy under a director comprising:

receiving a message from a sending participant manager at a receiving

participant manager, said sending participant manager and said receiving participant manager included in the plurality of participant managers, said message including a level of said sending participant manager;

determining whether said receiving participant manager should be attached in the hierarchy to said sending participant manager based on said level of said sending participant manager and a level of said receiving participant manager; and

if so, attaching said receiving participant manager to said sending participant manager thereby forming the hierarchy.

12. **(Original)** The method of claim 11, wherein said determining comprises determining whether said receiving participant manager should be attached in the hierarchy to said sending participant manager based on said level of said sending participant manager, said level of said receiving participant manager, and a level of an attached participant manager to which said receiving participant manager is already attached.

13. **(Original)** The method of claim 12, wherein said determining comprises:  
determining whether said level of said sending participant manager is less than said level of said receiving participant manager.

14. **(Original)** The method of claim 12, wherein said determining comprises:  
determining whether said level of said sending participant manager is less than said level of said receiving participant manager; and  
if not, determining whether said level of said sending participant manager is greater than said level of said attached participant manager.

15. **(Original)** The method of claim 12, wherein said determining comprises:  
determining whether said level of said sending participant manager is less than said level of said receiving participant manager;

if not, determining whether said level of said sending participant manager is greater than said level of said attached participant manager; and

if not, determining whether said level of said sending participant manager is less than said level of said attached participant manager.

16. **(Original)** The method of claim 12, wherein said determining comprises:

determining whether said level of said sending participant manager is less than said level of said receiving participant manager;

if not, determining whether said level of said sending participant manager is greater than said level of said attached participant manager;

if not, determining whether said level of said sending participant manager is less than said level of said attached participant manager; and

if not, determining whether said sending participant manager is closer to said receiving participant manager than said attached participant manager.

17. **(Original)** The method of claim 11, further comprising:

multicasting an announce message to said sending participant manager from said receiving participant manager.

18. **(Original)** The method of claim 17, further comprising:

sending an announce acknowledge message to said receiving participant manager from said sending participant manager, wherein said message comprises said announce acknowledge message.

19. **(Original)** The method of claim 18, further comprising:

determining whether a level of said receiving participant manager is less than a level of said sending participant manager; and

if so, sending an announce acknowledge message to said receiving participant from said sending participant manager, wherein said message comprises said

announce acknowledge message.

20. **(Original)** The method of claim 19, further comprising:

if said level of said receiving participant manager is not less than said level of said sending participant manager, determining whether said receiving participant manager is closer to said sending participant manager than a participant manager to which said sending participant manager is already attached.

21. **(Original)** The method of claim 20, further comprising:

detaching said sending participant manager from said attached participant manager; and multicasting an announce message from said sending participant manager.

22. **(Currently Amended)** A method for gating a participant access to an event comprising:

upon the participant attempting to access the event, prohibiting the participant from joining the event;

determining whether the participant has a ticket;

if the participant has a ticket, determining whether said ticket is a valid ticket;

if the participant has a valid ticket, receiving information as to whether said ticket is an authentic ticket;

if the participant has an authentic ticket, allowing the participant to join the event;  
and

attaching the participant to a director through a hierarchy of participant managers, the director facilitating delivery of the event to the participant through the hierarchy of participant managers.

23. **(Original)** The method of claim 22, wherein said prohibiting comprises intercepting an attempt by an event renderer located at the participant to join the event.

24. **(Original)** The method of claim 22, wherein said prohibiting comprises preventing an event renderer located at the participant from launching.

25. **(Original)** The method of claim 22, wherein said allowing comprises allowing said event renderer to join the event.

26. **(Original)** The method of claim 24, wherein said allowing comprises allowing said event renderer to launch.

27. **(Original)** The method of claim 22, further comprising directing the participant to a ticket provider if the participant does not have a ticket.

28. **(Original)** The method of claim 22, further comprising directing the participant to a ticket provider if the participant does not have a valid ticket.

29. **(Original)** The method of claim 22, further comprising directing the participant to a ticket provider if the participant does not have an authentic ticket.

30. **(Cancelled)**

31. **(Currently Amended)** The method of claim ~~30~~ 22, wherein said step of receiving information as to whether said ticket is an authentic ticket comprises receiving said information from said hierarchy.

32. **(Currently Amended)** The method of claim ~~30~~ 22, wherein said step of receiving information as to whether said ticket is an authentic ticket comprises receiving said information from a participant manager in said hierarchy to which the participant is attached.

33. (**Currently Amended**) The method of claim ~~30~~ 22, further comprising notifying said director that the participant joined the event.

34. (**Currently Amended**) The method of claim ~~30~~ 22, further comprising notifying said director that the event ended.

35. (**Currently Amended**) The method of claim ~~30~~ 22, further comprising notifying a participant manager in said hierarchy to which the participant is attached that the participant joined the event.

36. (**Currently Amended**) A method for controlling, measuring and monitoring access by a plurality of participants to an event comprising:

determining whether a participant has a turnstile installed in response to a request by said participant to participate in the event;

determining whether said participant has a valid ticket to the event;

directing said participant to a source that delivers the event;

notifying a director that said participant has joined the event; and

monitoring the delivery of the event by:

aggregating information regarding delivery of the event to the plurality of participants, and

providing the aggregated information to the director.

37. (**Original**) The method of claim 36, further comprising installing said turnstile at said participant.

38. (**Original**) The method of claim 36, further comprising providing said valid ticket to said participant.

39. **(Original)** The method of claim 36, further comprising notifying said director when the event ends.

40. **(Original)** The method of claim 39, wherein said notifying comprises notifying said director upon said participant closing the event.

41. **(Original)** The method of claim 39, wherein said notifying comprises notifying said director upon completing the delivery of the event.

42. **(Original)** The method of claim 36, further comprising allocating, by said director, a fixed number of valid tickets to the event.

43. **(Original)** The method of claim 42, wherein said allocating comprises allocating a fixed number of valid tickets to content providers.

44. **(Original)** The method of claim 42, wherein said allocating further comprises allocating said fixed number of valid tickets among a plurality of participant managers organized in a hierarchy between said director and said participant.

45. **(Original)** The method of claim 44, further comprising restricting access to the event by said participant when one of said plurality of participant managers exceeds its allocation of valid tickets.